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A NEW MEMBER OF THE *PEROGNATHUS PARVUS*  
GROUP OF POCKET MICE.

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[Contribution from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California.]

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The *Perognathus parvus* group of pocket mice belongs to the Upper Sonoran and Transition zones in the Great Basin region of the western United States and extreme southern British Columbia. According to the latest reviser of the Genus *Perognathus* (Osgood, N. Amer. Fauna No. 18, 1900, pp. 34-40) the southernmost record station in California for any member of this group is the San Bernardino Mountains, to which locality a species, *P. alticola*, is as far as known restricted. The next southernmost stations for the group are in the Inyo region east of the southern Sierra Nevada, the forms there represented being *Perognathus parvus olivaceus* and *P. p. magruderensis*. Between these two localities, as far as published records show, no form of the group has been obtained.

One of the results of the field work carried on by the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology during the summer of 1911 was the discovery in the vicinity of Walker Pass, Kern County, California, of the presence of a pocket mouse of the *parvus* group. This member proves to be distinct from both *olivaceus* and *magruderensis* to the northeast, and from *alticola* to the south. The peculiarities of this new form, described below, are so great in amount as to argue against the idea that the *parvus* group is continuously distributed from the Inyo region southwest by way of the Tehachapi and Tejon mountains to the San Bernardino Mountains. The existence of such divergent forms as the new species here described, and *alticola*, point rather towards wholly disconnected habitats. The scanty data at hand indicates further, that the new form is restricted to the

middle portion of the Sonoran zone, while *alticola* belongs to lower Transition.

***Perognathus xanthonotus* sp. nov.**

*Type* from Freeman Canyon, 4900 feet altitude, east slope Walker Pass, Kern County, California; adult ♂, skin and skull, No. 16,154, Univ. Calif. Mus. Vert. Zool.; collected June 27, 1911, by H. A. Carr; orig. No. 111.

*General characters.*—As compared with *Perognathus parvus olivaceus*, size small, skull small, pelage fine-grained, and coloration wholly different; similar to *P. alticola* but pelage softer and coloration of body very different.

*Colors.*—Whole dorsal surface between ochraceous-buff and cream-buff, almost perfectly clear on sides of body and head, and but slightly obscured mid-dorsally with scanty dusky tipplings to the hairs; feet and lower surface white; ears clothed scantily with white hairs both inside and out; a conspicuous spot of pure white at inferior base of ear; tail well clothed with hairs, and distinctly penicillate, beneath white, above faint cream-buff with a slight dusky tinge on terminal fifth.

*Skull.*—Distinctly smaller than in *olivaceus*, mastoids and audital bullae notably so; closely similar to *alticola*. Adult perfect skulls of both *xanthonotus* and *alticola*, however, are wanting, and are necessary to any satisfactory comparison with the evidently nearest relative of these two, *olivaceus*.

*Measurements.*—Type specimen: Total length, 170 mm.; tail vertebrae, 85; hind foot, 22.5. Average of eight adolescents and adults: Total length, 165.3; tail vertebrae, 85; hind foot, 22.5.

*Occurrence.*—All of the eight specimens of the new form at hand are from the mountain divide east of the Kern River Valley, at the southern end of the Sierra Nevada, in Kern County, California. The exact localities represented are: East slope Walker Pass, alt. 4900 ft., 3; west slope Walker Pass, alt. 4600 ft., 2; west slope of divide at head of Kelso Valley, alt. 5000 ft., 2. These localities are all in the tree yucca belt, an arid faunal division about on the boundary between the Upper and Lower Sonoran life zones.

*Remarks.*—The coloration of *xanthonotus* is remarkably close to that in *Perognathus longimembris neglectus* and *P. panamintinus bangsi*, these being species of nearby habitats. The first-glance resemblance is striking, but the former has the antitragal lobes and thick tail separating it from the *panamintinus* group. The young of *xanthonotus* as compared with the young of *olivaceus* show much of the yellowness characterizing the adults, especially along the sides of the face and body; the ears are white-haired; but the tail is much more dusky above. *Xanthonotus* agrees with *alticola* in light-colored ears and tail, but differs most emphatically in dorsal body color, *alticola* being very dark, black predominating.

I am indebted to Mr. Frank Stephens for the loan of an adult male topotype of *Perognathus alticola*, one of the very few specimens of this rare species in collections anywhere.